



COLLEGE OF OPTICIANS OF ONTARIO STANDARD OF PRACTICE: REFRACTION

As approved by Council on September 25, 2007

1. An optician must have successfully completed a training program, which includes an examination component that meets the most current refracting competencies established by College of Opticians of Ontario (COO). The respective training program will not be included within the general curriculum of the opticianry program, but will rather be available as a post-graduate course. COO will provide a list of all accredited education programs.
2. If an optician intends to refract, he or she must apply to COO for 'refracting designation' through a process established by COO. Furthermore, refracting opticians must send a facsimile of all completed Patient Consent Forms to COO on a quarterly basis using the attached Patient Consent Form.
3. An optician must submit to COO at least eight (8) College-approved continuing education credits that are *specific to refraction* and which are to be submitted *in addition* to the credits required for the optician's existing Quality Assurance cycle.
4. An optician must ensure that he or she has the appropriate equipment to perform refraction such as, but not necessarily limited to, automated refraction equipment, phoropter, trial lenses, retinoscope and visual acuity charts.
5. An optician must not prepare and dispense vision devices based solely on the results of the refraction performed pursuant to clearances received from authorized prescribers, as set out in clause 6.
6. An optician may only perform refractions based on clearance from an authorized prescriber. The clearance may take one of three forms:
 - (a) The patient has seen an authorized prescriber for a full oculo visual assessment within the last 365 days. The authorized prescriber has issued a written prescription for the patient indicating that the patient requires an optical appliance subject to determination of the refractive error where the

prescriber has given clearance to the optician to determine the refractive status of the eye.

In this circumstance, the optician may perform refraction and dispense the appropriate eyewear. The results of the refractive error determination and information on the optical appliance dispensed must be provided to the authorized prescriber no later than 30 days from the date that the appliance was dispensed.

- (b) The patient has seen an authorized prescriber for a full oculo visual assessment within the last 365 days. Pursuant to the health of the patient meeting a set of predetermined conditions, the prescriber has given clearance to the optician to determine the refractive status of the eye.

In this circumstance, the authorized prescriber has determined that the health of a patient has satisfied certain predetermined health standards, where the prescriber has then authorized the optician to perform the refraction and dispense the appropriate eyewear based on the results of that refraction and any additional information that the prescriber has provided. The results of the refractive error determination and information on the optical appliance dispensed must be provided to the authorized prescriber no later than 30 days from the date that the appliance was dispensed.

- (c) The patient has seen an authorized prescriber for a full oculo visual assessment within the last 365 days. The optician receives a referral from a prescriber giving clearance to the optician to perform a refraction on the patient.

In this circumstance, the optician may perform the refraction and must provide the results of that refraction to the referring practitioner as soon as possible. The optician may subsequently receive a prescription from the authorized prescriber based on the results of the refraction, whereupon the optician may dispense eyewear to the patient.

7. An optician must use her or his knowledge, skills and judgment to refer to a physician or optometrist any indication or complications in the patient's visual or general health that comes to the attention of the optician as a result of performing the refraction.
8. In addition to the patient's file, the refraction health record for **every patient** upon whom an optician has performed a refraction must contain:
 - (a) Date of the refraction,
 - (b) Name of optician performing refraction and College registration number,

- (c) Patient Consent Form (one copy per patient must be provided to the College March 31, June 30, Sept 30 and Dec 31 of each year),
 - (d) Results of the refraction,
 - (e) Name of the prescriber, date and details of clearance to refract, as well as any other instructions.
9. An optician is prohibited from performing refractions other than in accordance with the provisions of this standard of practice.